

Franklin Bridge Club

Table Talk April 2026



We promote Face to Face (F2F) Bridge

The Swiss Pairs night, Wednesday 8th April

We had a great turnout – 30 pairs – for this one-night event.

Swiss Pairs is a less-stress (well, relatively) format, because as the night progresses each pair moves up and down depending their result in the previous round. So you end up with top players playing top players, and less skilled playing with less skilled. We played 4 rounds of 6 boards each, so the usual 24 boards on the night.

It takes considerable organisation to set Swiss Pairs up, and the night went off without a hitch. Our thanks to Jonathan Taylor, Tricia Balle and Arie Geursen for organising, and to Terry Evans and Jim Buckland who dealt the 144 boards required (6 sets of 24 boards).

Congratulations to the winners on the night – **Grant Andrew and Ilian Trifanov**, who originally forged their bridge partnership over regular lunchtime play at NZ Steel Mill.

Lessons – beginners and advanced

There was a very good turnout of members (12 tables) for our potluck dinner and advanced lesson on Friday night 27th March, given by Grant Jarvis, our Platinum Grand Master. Grant's theme for the night was "extending strategies beyond basic point count decisions". For example you could hold a very poor 12 count, or a "huge" 7 count.

He contended that for every "brilliance" in bridge there are 50 errors. The key to an improved game is eliminating those errors, through visualisation, good communication and recognising common scenarios.

Beginners' lessons started on Tuesday 17th March, only a small group of starters this year, but we hope to retain ALL of them! Retention after lessons is a big issue for clubs all over NZ. Maureen Nelson is again teaching, with technical assistance from Jonathan Taylor.

Note: All paid up club members are very welcome to attend all or any of this year's lessons – free of charge. If you did the lessons recently (or even if you'd just like to brush up on a specific topic), you are welcome to join in. We start promptly at 7pm.

All the lesson materials are available in PDF format on our Club website. You can access the link from the home page "Education link or using [2026 Lessons](#)

Upcoming Tournament

Saturday, 23rd May is our annual Restricted 8B tournament. Restricted means that no two Open players can play together – an ideal time for our intermediates and juniors to have a go.

Get your entries in early using the NZB Website link here [Franklin 8B Restricted](#)

Player News

- When you're away on holiday, remember to check into the local bridge club if you wish. Vicky Pearson has just got back from her holiday in Winchester, Hampshire, visiting her son and grandsons (and the famous medieval cathedral). Spring weather has ranged between 3 degrees and 17 degrees. Before she left NZ, Vicky contacted the Winchester Bridge Club, and was welcomed to a friendly game there.
- Pip and Gary are campervanning round the South Island for several weeks, and early on had a game at the Nelson Bridge Club, where they were delighted to come top for the session.
- We will miss Belinda's smiling face in future, she and Kerry have just moved to Mangawhai. Yes, there is a bridge club there! And Jenny Colgan, former secretary for FBC plays there.
- Our Treasurer Christine Godding is off to Sri Lanka and the Maldives in April. While she's away, former Treasurer Maureen will look after the table money vouchers (and the table money itself).
- Ann Watts and her horse Carlos won Reserve Champion at the National Dressage Championship in Taupo last month – our congratulations!
- You may have noticed that sometimes we just refer to members by their Christian names – there is only one Pip and Gary, only one Lynne and Arie, but we have 11 ladies in our club, whose names begin with "M", including 3 Marys. One of our members (not the Editor) during some downtime at Easter composed the following:

An Ode to the Marys

Mary, Mary quite contrary, how did your contracts go?
With singleton aces and six card suits
And pretty queens all in a row?

Mary, Mary quite contrary, how did your dummy play go?
With failed finesses and four/one splits
And further tales of woe?

Mary, Mary quite contrary, how did your slam try go?
With all trump honours and good second suits
And happily homewards you go !

Many thanks to our anonymous poet.

***May all your finesses work
May all your slams be grand***

